



Bridge Center – Pelican Rapids

\$200,000 capital support to renovate and activate [The Bridge Center](#) as a safe, accessible, and welcoming physical space for community connection as part of the Rural Placemaking Program in rural Minnesota

Contact

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Bridge Center – bridging generations, building connections in Pelican Rapids

Three years ago, Avah Pixley joined The Youths after hearing about the group from her older sister, who had been involved in its early stages. At the time, she was feeling disconnected and confined to a small social circle. Through The Youths, she found a sense of belonging, built meaningful relationships, and discovered opportunities to lead.

One of the most impactful experiences came this spring when Avah participated in Civic Bridgers' America's Future Summit. Serving as CEO of The Youths' team, she helped research youth absenteeism, develop a youth-led solution, and present their proposal in front of more than 150 students and adults from across Minnesota. Their team's idea was selected for implementation and awarded \$1,000.

Since joining The Youths, Avah has also volunteered alongside Bridge Center board members to serve community meals and support fundraising efforts. Reflecting on her experience, she says The Youths helped her realize that young people can create meaningful change and be true partners with adults. “My confidence has increased so much,” she shared. “I feel more capable and comfortable speaking about my opinions. I have gained many relationships, new perspectives, knowledge, and experience through The Youths, and I couldn’t be more thankful for a group like this.” The Bridge Center is excited to offer more youth programming in Pelican Rapids, MN through the help of this Blandin grant as we prepare to open a permanent youth and family hub in town.

Photos – also available to download from media kit



Youth Planning



Youth Summit